

# LEADER MAGAZINE

## NC GOES TO WASHINGTON



### Also in This Issue

Pearl Harbor KIA  
PO 3 Frye  
Returned Home

HQ Open House Invite



Fort Bragg Renaming Ceremony    The Wall That Heals Coming

Interview with Matt Cahill, Green Star Family Founder

The Official Publication of the Department of NC Veterans of Foreign Wars



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*NC Rep. Brad Knott, NC with (L-R) District 11 Commander Chris Brown: Dept. Legislative Chair, Dolphus Troy; Dept. Jr. Vice, Mickey Biggs; Dept. Sr. Vice, Edward Beard; Dept. Aux. President, Sandra Jeffries; Dept. Aux. Historian, Barbara Beard.*

*Bottom Left:*

*Dept. Commander, Annie Cummings with Pat Harrigan;*

*Bottom Right :*

*WWII Sailor Petty Officer 3rd Class KIA Neil Frye returned home from Pearl Harbor*



## Dates to Remember

**April 8-10**

National Auxiliary  
Presidents Visit

**May 3**

4th Annual  
Day of Service

**June 4**

Billy Ray Cameron  
Golf Tournament

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Summer Convention

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Heather Dean-Woods

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## Our Advertisers

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Doug Marshall, Advocate Health Advisors  
Scotty Medeiros, Silver Lining Life Insurance Group, LLC.

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Editor: Ryan Rogers, USMC, Post 9983 Publisher: Heather Dean, Post 1119

## CONTRIBUTIONS:

We would love to share your stories, pictures and events, at post and district level, for comrades & auxiliary.

Send correspondence to [leaderinfo@vfwnc.com](mailto:leaderinfo@vfwnc.com)

Submission of articles and photos implies the right to edit and publish all or in part.

**Deadlines are 15th of June, September, December & March.**



The Leader Magazine



# DEPARTMENT COMMANDER'S CORNER



Can you believe we have nearly completed yet another great year with this phenomenal organization of ours? Yes indeed, the 125th year of the VFW is coming to the final days, and we are tracking to have a stellar finish, thanks to all of you.

Accountability, Action, and Attitude have been and will continue to be our cornerstone this year, and, in spite of every hurdle that has unexpectedly challenged us at every turn, most of you have all risen to the challenge and found the spirit to complete the missions. You are the true leaders of this organization, and I'm so very proud to serve with you. You never back down, never say die, and failure is never an option.

We have completed nearly all of the tasks to achieve All American as a Department, and the last being membership which we are currently tracking to reach 102.8% by June 30th. I'm confident with just a little push, we could finish more than a month ahead of schedule, and finish in the top 10 Departments world wide.

This year has been about thinking outside the box, abandoning the "But we have always done it this way" complacency and adopting innovative ideas and solutions to bring ease of doing business and attracting younger members to prepare them for the next generation of our organizations leadership. Your willingness to embrace new challenges, try new methods, and being open to different avenues has and will continue to be the key to our future successes. I commend you all for the efforts and successes.

We have created a mobile app for your phones to make it easier to access all that you need to be an integral part of our organization, streamlining our training processes and encouraging virtual meetings and learning opportunities to increase our awareness and better serve all comrades within the Department. We have overcome tremendous obstacles, moved twice, resolved old issues, and rooted out some problems that sought to disrupt and defraud our organization. Your willingness, integrity, and intestinal fortitude to come together as a team, have been truly amazing and inspiring. We will finish strong, as the "A-Team" would be expected to and stand tall for our accomplishments. This honor to serve beside you has been truly a life's joy and accomplishment! Thank you all for making it happen.... but don't stop now... it ain't over until its over! See you at the finish line!



## Letter From The Editor

As we move into the summer and the weather warms, keep your VFW community in your thoughts.

With the beautiful weather comes ample opportunity to come together as a community and conduct service and outreach. Be it through golfing, fishing, shooting, or logging in community service hours for outreach in the local area.

Get out in the sun, move about the day and bring joy and help to something bigger than your self.

Mother Teresa once said "The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved." Spread joy, spread love, spread life! Be the light!

**LLTB**

**RYAN ROGERS**

**LEADER EDITOR**



## GRAND OPENING

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

## DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA

## HEADQUARTERS



**JOIN US TO CELEBRATE OUR NEW  
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**RSVP: [ADJ@VFWNC.COM](mailto:ADJ@VFWNC.COM)**





# Fort Bragg's New Namesake



Fort Liberty, a name change itself, “after one of America's core values” was officially re-named after Private Roland L. Bragg, a WWII hero, who served with the 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 17th Airborne Division, XVIII Airborne Corp.

The US DoD page says Bragg was born in Maine, June of 1923, the son of a WWI Army Veteran. He joined the Army at age 23, was assigned to the 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 17th Airborne Division, and was stationed at Fort Bragg.

Private Bragg received the Silver Star for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity,” and a Purple Heart for wounds sustained during the Battle of the Bulge.

Bragg died in 1999 and is buried in Dunbar Cemetery in Nobleboro, Maine. His obituary, printed in the Portland Press Herald, tells of being released from imprisonment by his German captors when they realized that he, too, was a Mason like them.

The original moniker was after Confederate General Braxton Bragg, a NC native, who was also a General in the Mexican American War. This Bragg is considered “one of the worst generals in history, as most of his battles ended in defeat with tremendous loss of life, consequential to the downfall of the confederacy. He was widely disliked pre -Civil War, in the Army, and amongst peers,” according to the renaming committee report.

The renaming ceremony took place on March 7.

*Pictures submitted by Dept. Jr. Vice, Mickey Biggs, & Dept. Quarter Master, Jenn Hutt. Cutline by Heather Dean-Woods, Publisher*



# DEPARTMENT OFFICERS



Commander  
Annie Cummings



Sr. Vice Commander  
Edward Beard



Jr. Vice Commander  
Mickey Biggs



Quartermaster  
Jenn Hutt



Adjutant  
Alecia Judd



Chaplain  
Dolphus Troy



Judge Advocate  
Josh Holt



Inspector  
Bud Stauffer



Surgeon  
Dave Martin



Chief of Staff  
Tab Brown



Asst. Quartermaster  
Charlie Cable



Aide De Camp  
David Long

Not Pictured: Victor Letourneau, National Council Representative

# DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICERS



Tab Brown  
252-933-2040



Michisa Zahorski  
919-616-1223



Cindy Hathaway  
336-631-5457



Brad Blackburn  
910-740-2285



# DISTRICT COMMANDERS



**1. Graham Leaver**  
6060



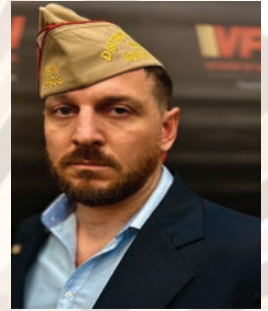
**2. Robert Bock**  
9841



**3. Jimmy Baugham**  
3702



**4. David Burger**  
9960



**5. Nicolas Conrad**  
9983



**6. Christopher Brown**  
1920



**7. Robert Kennedy**  
9103



**8. Jerry Moser**  
670



**9. Craig Armstrong**  
7318



**10. John Marion**  
2972



**11. Eric Brown**  
5352



**12. Bobbi Sheets**  
6365



**13. Nathaniel Drisker**  
1160



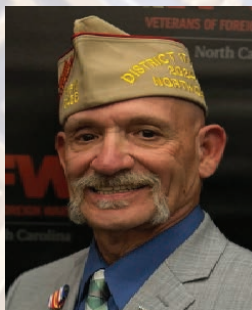
**14. Art Gordon**  
4066



**15. Kevin Ross**  
7946



**16. David Collins**  
9116



**17. Robert Morrow**  
7339

- 1- Currituck, Pasquotank, Chowan, Gates, Hertford, Bertie, Martin, Washington, Tyrel, Dare, Perquimans and Camden
- 2-Hyde, Beaufort, Pitt, Greene, Lenoir and Wayne
- 3 - Northampton, Halifax, Warren, Franklin, Nash, Edgecombe and Wilson
- 4 - Pamlico, Craven, Carteret, Jones, Onslow, Pender, Duplin and Sampson
- 5- Bladen, Columbus, Brunswick, New Hanover and Topsail Island
- 6- Caswel, Person, Granville, Vance, Durham, Alamance and Orange
- 7- Chatham, Wake, Johnston and Harnett.
- 8- Cumberland, Robeson and Hoke.
- 9- Montgomery, Moore, Le, Anson, Richmond and Scotland.

10 - Rockingham, Guilford, Davidson, and Randolph.

11 - Surry, Yadkin, Stokes, Forsyth and Davie.

12 -Rowan, Cabarrus and Stanly.

13 - Gaston, Mecklenburg, Union, and the Kings Mountain 9811

14 - Burke, Lincoln, Catawba, Alexander, Iredel, Cleveland and Rutherford, except Kings Mtn Post 9811.

15 - Avery, Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany, Wilkes, Caldwell and Mitchell. District 16 - Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, Polk, Yancey and McDowel.

17 - Haywood, Transylvania, Cherokee, Graham, Clay, Macon, Jackson and Swain.



# DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY OFFICERS

## Greetings Brothers & Sisters,

Wishing you and your family a very happy holiday season full of love and fellowship. Thank you so much for the undying support given to our Veterans and their families in Western NC. So many people and communities were affected and the support shown has been extraordinary. There is still more work to be done, and we are ready and willing to continue the support.

The Department of NC Auxiliaries is comprised of over 6,234 members covering 73 Auxiliaries in our 17 districts. We are the families of Veterans that have served in combat, and we understand that without the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization there would be no Auxiliary. This year Commander Annie and I vowed that we would keep our relationship strong so this means the relationship between the VFW and the Auxiliary will also be strong. Communication is the key and I employ Post Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents to keep the lines of communication open and do not be afraid to talk to each other. Personality conflicts will always be there so there are going to be times when you must refer back to your Bylaws and Standing Rules to help you make decisions.

We are 5 months into the 2024-2025 year, and I hope that you are proud of all the work that has been done on both the VFW and the Auxiliary sides of the house. Department goals were set, and we are on target for accomplishing each of them, believe it or not. It has been said that "without a vision the people will perish"- this does not apply to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Each year the new Commander and the new President presents their vision which should coincide with the organization's mission. Learn the mission and practice it. Please continue to do the work of helping our Veterans and their families and do not get distracted based on minor issues that can easily be resolved. **Remember we are "Serving Those Who Have Served With Love".**

Loyally Serving Our Veterans,  
Sandra Jeffries, President 2024-2025  
VFW Auxiliary Department of NC



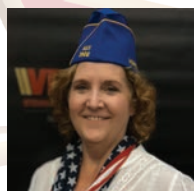
**President**  
**Sandra Jeffries**



**Senior Vice**  
**Anna Holm**



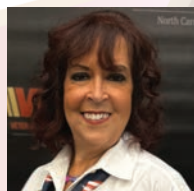
**Junior Vice**  
**Lin Moore**



**Chaplain**  
**Wendy Rachels**



**Conductor/Secretary**  
**Tracy Armstrong**



**Treasurer**  
**Sandra Johnson-Leu**

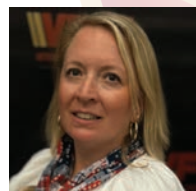


**Guard**  
**Theresa Billips**

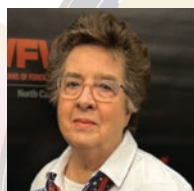


**Chief of Staff**  
**Julia Stancil-Warren**

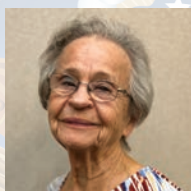
## District Presidents



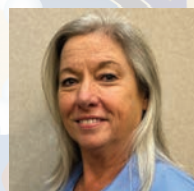
**Brittany Phillips**  
**District 1**



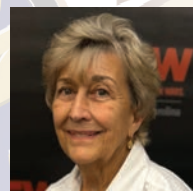
**Violet Saviak**  
**District 2**



**Mary Lewis**  
**District 3**



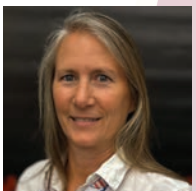
**Eileen Lazevnick**  
**District 4**



**Deborah Crowder**  
**District 5**



**Emily Ball**  
**District 6**



**Tina Szafarski**  
**District 7**



**Mary Zanders**  
**District 8**



**Angi Hardy**  
**District 9**



**Carsonia Whitmore**  
**District 10**



**Nancy Raborne**  
**District 11**



**Theresa Billips**  
**District 12**



**Becky Rowe**  
**District 13**



**Linda Owen**  
**District 14**



**Sherry Brooks**  
**District 15**



**Joyce Preston**  
**District 16**



**Niki Paganelli**  
**District 17**



# The (Sweet) Fix Is IN!

The sweet taste of chocolate and candy is easily accessible in the historic town of Pittsboro, thanks to one of our VFW members and his wife.

Tina and Gary Szafarski, from Post 6722 in Lillington, own the Sweet Fix Chocolate and Candy Store, located at 119 Hillsboro Street in downtown Pittsboro.

Founded in 2023, The Sweet Fix answers a dream of Tina and Gary's to open a chocolate and candy store in rural America. They first met in 1983, with Gary departing their small New York town in 1984 for a 20-year Army career. Tina and Gary reconnected in 2009, fell in love, married and began pursuing their dreams together in North Carolina. An experienced chocolatier, Tina jumped at this opportunity to expand her talent. The Sweet Fix carries a variety of chocolate truffles, candy, chocolate molds and assorted gifts.

Plan a visit to The Sweet Fix and you surely won't be disappointed. The friendly staff is trained and ready to answer all of your sweet cravings. Truffles, The Sweet Fix specialty, come in a variety of over 50 flavors and can be purchased as a gift box, party favors or platters.

The Sweet Fix caters to group events including: weddings, baby showers, parties and conferences. Additionally, you can turn your business logo into chocolate! Just ask how and The Sweet Fix will make that happen.

Come out to Pittsboro and get your sweet fix on at none other than, **The Sweet Fix!**



## Post 7775 Member Bridget Lightner Awarded Citizen of the Year

Commander SGM (Ret) Bridget Lightner, received Citizen of the year award from Pi Phi Chapter Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

Mentioned was her dedicated service in going the extra mile to help Veterans in the community, but also in and out of the state; sharing knowledge assisting with claims and other resources, and hosting events at their post in Charlotte beneficial for Veterans, family and care providers.

*-Submitted by Post 7775*



## Quilt Of Valor Presented at 7383 in Cary



On Tuesday 18 March, SFC Don Leu was presented a Quilt of Valor by Cary Post Commander, Matt Kallio (above left). The Quilt was lovingly made by the Quilt Of Valor Foundation of South Carolina.

He was then draped with the quilt during the ceremony.

Leu is shown above, with his wife, Sandra helping hold the quilt.

*From VFW Aux Dept. of NC Facebook page*

**Brenda Bryant**  
VFW AUXILIARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT

☆☆☆ **North Carolina Visit** ☆☆☆

**Tuesday, April 8 - Thursday, April 10, 2025**

HOST POST/AUX: LESLIE C LEWIS AUXILIARY 7315 HAVELOCK, NC





**MONEY BACK TOWARD YOUR  
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**VISION ALLOWANCE FOR  
GLASSES OR CONTACTS**

**DENTAL ALLOWANCE FOR  
MOST DENTAL TREATMENTS**

**GYM MEMBERSHIP  
(YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD  
FOR PT)**



**ENROLLEES IN VA HEALTHCARE, TRICARE, OR CHAMPVA AND HAVE  
MEDICARE PART A & PART B SHOULD CONTACT ME TO SCHEDULE A  
BRIEFING. LET ME KNOW WHAT TIME FORMATION WILL BE.**

**I CALL THESE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS, "OPERATION GIVEBACK."**

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## Special Feature:

*Green Star Families of America is a Veteran-founded nonprofit (501c3) dedicated to advocating for the families of Veterans lost to suicide. Since 2020, they've worked to gain federal recognition for the Green Star Service Banner.*

**By Heather Dean-Woods  
Publisher**

Matt Cahill is a 26 year Army Medic that was medically retired in 2019. His father served in Vietnam and his sister served with him in the same med platoon in Iraq. I met Cahill last July, at the National Convention where he had an information booth. Being a Mission 22 Ambassador, I was immediately drawn in by his campaign. While we all feel strongly about the prevention of veteran suicide, some of us having friends and family that lost the battle, like Cahill, he reached his breaking point in 2020. "I lost my Veteran cousin, Wes Donnelly, to suicide in July, and a long time friend, Andy McCaffrey, in August. Something more had to be done, many organizations existed to raise awareness about veteran suicide but there wasn't a veterans organization that focused on the surviving family. As I thought about this, I knew great specifics about Gold Star and researched online for an organization that had to exist that supported these surviving families as they did. There was not, so I talked to my veteran friends about starting a campaign to lobby for a Green Star Service Banner." The Green Star Family Movement had been founded.

At first, Cahill thought he would just be talking to his Congressman about the idea. He got to cross of "drafting a bill" off of his bucket list, that wasn't ever there in the first place. Enter Bill HR 5036, to the 117th Congress, read by Congressman Jefferson H. VanDrew. "That got no traction supposedly due to an incalculable number to determine the cost of having Green Star Service Banners made. That would have been an oversight on my part, but the truth of the matter is there was no department or overseeing agency that kept track of suicides so there was no number that I could put in the Bill that anybody would agree on. Hence started the 1st hurdle that is sure to only be the first of many."

The second Bill, HR 3076, was presented to the 118th Congress, and simply asked for the term "Green Star" to basically replace the statistic of "22 a Day," so that the Green Star Families of America could start



## Green Star Families Of America

having Green Star Service Banners made and presented to families. Doing this would also allow the creation of a data base of Veterans who have been lost to suicide.

The majority of the Green Star Board are active members in the VFW. Cahill is the Post 10886 Surgeon in New Jersey. Vice President, Rich Cassey, was the Commander at his Post 7155 in PA.

They decided to pass a Green Star Resolution up through both PA & NJ VFW's. In 2023 it was voted down, and in 2024 it was passed but had anything "Green Star" related stripped out of it.

Most recently Senator Fetterman's office confirmed to them that the government has been tied up by big organizations such as TAPS, Gold Star, & MOAA trying to fit a square peg in a round hole. "They want a definition of what a Gold Star is, and they want veteran suicides to fit in that definition. The problem is that any language that would include Veteran Suicide under Gold Star would have to do with dying from a service related illness or injury....which would include all deaths from things like agent orange and other service related long term conditions that all the veterans I have spoken with, including myself, do NOT believe should be placed under the Gold Star banner."

With insights gained from their previous two bills, they have refined the approach. The revised bill asks Congress to direct the Joint Executive Committee (JEC)—established under Public Law 97-174 in 1982—to provide crucial data that has previously stalled progress. The main issue? Determining the number of Veterans lost to suicide since 9/11 and the cost of producing Green Star Service Banners for their immediate family members.

So why wait? Why not just go ahead and make the banners to hand out themselves? Cahill has two reasons. "I tell people of a conversation I had with one mother who lost her son to suicide, she said ***"Please do this right for if it is not, I fear false hope would be worse than no hope."*** I understood, and I also did not want to give false hope that the presentation of our banner to ever be confused with follow on benefits...until there were benefits recognized by the federal government."

The movement has a lot of support anywhere Cahill goes. They all believe it is a big endeavor, and hope that it would be able

to get through the bureaucracies and championed by representatives who will do more than just talk about supporting veterans.

***"Imagine our generation to be the one that doesn't just ignore and stigmatize mental health, but actually finds truly effective means to diagnose, treat, and eradicate the causes of veteran suicide."*** Cahill said.

Bonnie Carroll, founder of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), is a longtime hero of Cahills, for her work and belief that mental health must be focused on and solved, the same way that the Gold Star has done with improvements in Trauma medicine and surviving common battlefield injuries. Cahill believes the Green Star will be just as effective.

While the Grass Roots efforts started with their inception in 2020, they hit roadblock after roadblock on social media with community standards. "How can any stigma be overcome when you can't even say/type suicide, suicide, the S word, or unliving oneself?" Cahill said. They finally gained traction after TikTok's reboot. "In one day, our Facebook page started a group called Green Star Starlings and over 40 people signed in. All at the same time other organizations were reaching out, podcasts were calling and scheduling interviews and a song is in the works. Many good things all at once."

"Even though it sometimes feels hopeless, I have this unshakable belief that the Green Star Service Banner will become a reality. It's like when you find yourself standing alone, doing the right thing, while everyone else just follows the norm without questioning it. But when you finally step back and ask, 'Why are we accepting this?'—you realize there's no good reason. And once that question is asked, change becomes possible. Basically, I guess I'm working to work myself out of a job. Only then will I be able to truly retire." Cahill said.

### **HOW CAN NC HELP MAKE THIS A REALITY FOR OUR STATE?**

Stay in contact with your representatives and tell them to support any Green Star Family Legislation. The current mission is 22 letters a day.

Follow on social media  
[greenstarfamilies.org](https://greenstarfamilies.org)

Email [Matt.Cahill@GreenStarFamilies.org](mailto:Matt.Cahill@GreenStarFamilies.org)  
to sign up for the news letter.



# FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Comrades and Auxiliary members from across the state converged on Washington DC for the annual Legislative week. They heard testimony by Patrick Murray on claim sharks, and met with Representatives including Tim Moore, Pat Harrigan, Chuck Edwards, continuing to advocate for our Veterans & continuing the push for our elected to Honor The Contract.



*Pictures submitted by Dolphus Troy, Barbara Beard, & Chris Brown*



# Welcome Home Petty Officer Frye



US Sailor Neil Daniel Frye was killed on December 7, 1941, while aboard the USS West Virginia during the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. On what would have been his 104th birthday he was welcomed home in a ceremony at his home church in Vass, Frye Chapel, to standing room only, and an overflow in the churchyard.

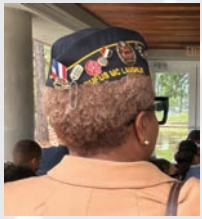
Frye's remains were identified by Scientists from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) in September of 2024.

Frye enlisted at age 19, and was only 20 when the attack happened. The Navy was still segregated at the time; Pastor Mayhue spoke of this at the service "Joining the Navy as a black man in the 40's was hard. Neil was brave enough to stand for our country, even in the face of segregation. Someone saw in him something greater, and he became a supervisor, he specialized in his work. He became Petty Officer 3rd Class, an E4. They saw that he was a good soldier. Now, as 2 Timothy says, he is a good soldier of Christ, and he is in first class with God."

Cordelia Frye Challenger, a veteran herself, gave a testimony saying "The enemy did not win, as we were able to bring our brother back home. For that we give glory to God. He paid the ultimate price, and where would we be without him? Death, you have no sting here."

Frye posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, American Defense Service Medal with Fleet Clasp, and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with Bronze Star. His name now bears a rosette at the Tablets of the Missing, marking his identification and proper burial.

He will be interred at Sandhills Veteran Cemetery at Fort Bragg.

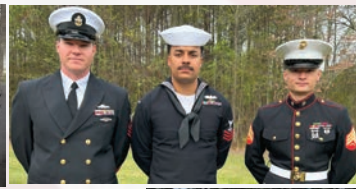


Story & photos  
by Heather  
Dean-Woods

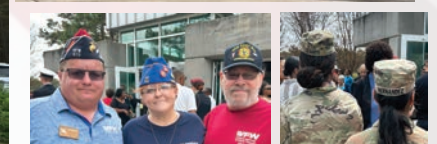
L: Rear Admiral  
Kimberly Walz  
gives the flag to  
Frye's sister Mary.



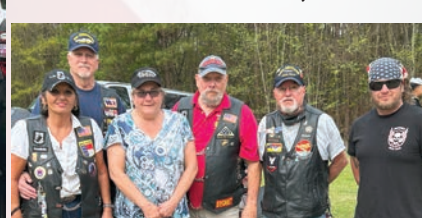
Above: Hawaii post member Robin Owens representing the Honolulu post. (R) Ret. Col. Ken Shedarowich & wife, Karen attended.



Below: The Buffalo Riders were among several bike groups that escorted the hearse. Top Middle: NC Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs Jocelyn Mallette, spoke to the family and presented them with a NC flag that flew over the capitol. She is pictured with Robert White. Above right: Bryan Heath, Esteban Chandler, & Andrew Brent from Ft. Bragg.



Above: Cdr. Mike Baker and others from Post 670. Below: (L) TAPS in the Park, Tina Kanipe from Granite Quarry; Riders from Post 1119 Cooleemee Cheryl & Tom Kopetzky, Patriot Rider, Larry Ketchie; Andy Eurie from Salisbury. (R) Dist. 7 Cdr. Robert Kennedy, PDC Tim Woods stand at attention with the Buffalo Riders as the family came in.







# Chris Brown



**Bridging The Gap!**

## THE VISION

Bridging the gap between our generations of veterans. Foster a sense of camaraderie & belonging for our younger generations. Empower them to become future leaders in the Dept of NC.

The mission of the VFW & Dept of NC must continue & the torch must be passed to the generations following.



Expanding  
our horizons  
and Bridging the Gap  
for the future!

**Positively representing the VFW & the Dept of NC in a myriad of settings through actions and demeanor.**



## MY PLEDGE

**I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully & do my utmost as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone.**



# Military Order of the Cootie & Auxiliary

Hello VFW. I bring you greetings from the fun makers of our organization. I encourage you to join us by joining a pup tent that is already in existence or standing up a pup tent of your own. Western North Carolina is under-represented with pup tents, but hopefully the seeds that have been planted will reestablish pup tents in posts that historically had them. Look through the archives of your post. Was there a Cootie Pup Tent among your members in the past? Think of the extra service you could provide to your community with a vibrant and active pup tent. Reach out to a cootie if you need help with the process. We are charged with the orders to increase and multiply.

As for all you lousy cooties out there, our Grand Convention is in HaveLock on May 30 through June 1. Be on the lookout for information on the hotel discount code as soon as it is available. And keep your fingers crossed that there will be a candidate for Grand Commander that is lousier than me. I thank you for all the great hospital work that you've accomplished this year. I also thank you for your prayers for me personally. I believe that the prayers are the key reason that I will beat this and be back full speed ahead in the next few months.

In Cootie fashion:  
Jeff Friar Grand Commander



MOC & MOC A Pup Tent 78 visited Woodland Nursing Home in Fayetteville NC to play BINGO with the residents. The residents were also given snack bags.

*Submitted by Barbara Beard*

Do you have family members who are eligible for Membership in the VFW Auxiliary?  
If not a member already... WHY NOT JOIN TODAY?



For the price of a meal, or less...

You could give them an opportunity to serve the best citizens in this nation right along side you...What's stopping you?

YOUR family members make up the VFW Auxiliary! Like you they choose to be as active or passive as their schedule allows, but either way their membership alone makes a tremendous difference to our nation's Veterans and their families. Sign them up today!



<https://vfwauxiliary.org/join-us>

Scan QR code for more information about The Wall That Heals Roxboro NC 2025



May 1-4, 2025

[www.thewallthathealsroxboronc2025.com](http://www.thewallthathealsroxboronc2025.com)



# Sparta Post 7034 Auxiliary



February 25, 2025 the VFW Post 7034 Auxiliary members attended a meeting of the Girl Scout Daisy Troop 13267 of Sparta, NC. President, Diana Hubbard, presented Abby Sherman the "Patriotic Youth Award" for her participation in the November 9, 2024 VFW Flag Retirement Ceremony. (Top right) Members of the Auxiliary gave each troop member an American flag and taught them flag etiquette. Miss Abby S. Demonstrated how to properly salute the flag and led the troop in the Pledge of Allegiance. Great Job ladies! Congratulations to Abby!

(Top Left) VSO Marge Gray, VFW member Jason Bass, and Troop leader Tara Walker assisting scouts with retiring the flags.

*Photos submitted by Heather Rodriguez*

# Fayetville Post 6018 Auxiliary



On behalf of VFW Auxiliary National President Brenda Bryant's "Operation Bottom Cover" Special Project, VFW Post 6018 Auxiliary hosted a baby shower for our Fort Liberty adopted units new & expected moms and dads.

*Screengrab from 6018 Facebook Page*



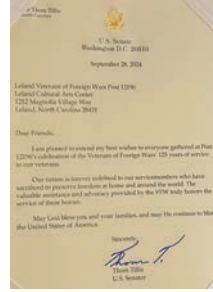


# Leland Post 12196

## 125th Anniversary Celebration



Comrades and Auxiliary came together to present an outstanding evening to celebrate their 125th anniversary. Clockwise From Left: Commander Decker with Leland Mayor, Brenda Bozeman, & a declaration the town made for the veterans. Leland Auxiliary members L-R: Brandi Hindhaw, President, Evan Jones, Jr Vice, Lynda Jones Secretary, Gudrun Chase, & Melody Casteen; A note from Senator Thom Tillis; Colin Air Patrol posted the colors. L-R Scott Mueller, Dept commander, Carson Mauney, 9th grade; Tyler Mueller, 10th grade; James Kilty, 10th grade; Galina Baldwin, 11th grade; Mike Kilty, Lt. Civil Air Patrol. State Senator, Bill Rabon, one of the guest speakers.



*Pictures by Leader Publisher, Heather Dean-Woods*

# Charlotte Post 7775



Sgt William E. Robinson VFW Post 7775 & District 13 L-R: Commander, Bridget Lightner and District 13 Commander, Jake Drisker dropping off donated money, canned goods, clothing and toys for Hurricane Helene in to assist the VFWNC with their mission of collecting items and giving back to our community and helping Veterans, family and neighbors throughout the devastated areas; Jr. Vice Barbara Ray, partnered with her church Greater Providence Baptist, to host a walk to end Alzheimers.

*Submitted by Cdr. Lightner*

# Yadkinville Post 10346



## 75th Anniversary

Post Commander, Steve Mosteller, and District Commander, Eric Brown.

*Screen grab from Facebook*

## Billy Ray Cameron Memorial Golf Tournament

June 4, Sanford NC

More details at [vfwnc.com](http://vfwnc.com) or 919-777-1901

**June 14 Convention Banquet Tickets:**

Pay now to guarantee your spot

# Fayetteville Post 670

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day



*Screen grab from Facebook*



**Gary Szafarski**

**USA(Ret)**

**Candidate for Junior Vice Commander**

**2025 – 2026**

- *Post Quartermaster***
- *Post Trustee***
- *All-State Post Commander***
- *District Trustee***
- *All-American Dist. Commander***
- *Hospitality Committee***



A proven leader with over 35 years military experience, I believe together, we can work to sustain the great work accomplished by our Veteran leaders and move forward to ensure the VFW is a place for members to enjoy, build relationships and mentor the next generation of Veterans. The VFW is not going away and with our support, hard work, dedication and spirit, we can address the issues that face many of us today, including Veteran suicide awareness, a difficult subject to discuss.. As an organization, VFW members must be courageous and willing to tackle this challenging topic, facing many of our Comrades. Since 2020, Veteran suicides have increased by 11.6%. This is an unacceptable figure that we must help curtail by becoming more involved in our communities, reaching out to younger Veterans and providing necessary support. Remember, we are all in this together and no one, does more for Veterans!



# Birthdays & Anniversaries



Happy Birthday  
Barbara Beard  
Dept. Historian  
Post 6018



Happy Anniversary  
Tim & Maebelle Nance  
Post 1142



Happy Birthday  
John Shelander  
Post 670



Happy Birthday  
Fist Dude  
Bill Cummings  
Post 7288



Happy Birthday  
Dolphus Troy, Dept. Chaplain  
& Tim Woods PDC  
Post 5352



Happy Birthday  
Sandra Jeffries  
Dept. Aux. President  
Post 7316



Happy Birthday  
Chris Brown  
Dist. 6 Commander  
Post 1920



Happy Birthday  
"Papa Bear"  
Russ Spurlock  
Post 9133



# ANGEL PLATOON



***Reuben Taylor***  
***November 7, 1925 -***  
***March 12, 2025***

PFC 504th Parachute Infantry  
Regiment of the 82nd Airborne  
Division WWII  
Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple  
Heart, and Bronze Star.



***Amon Harris***  
***October 20, 1928***  
***February 24, 2025***

US Army 24 years  
Korea and Vietnam

Post 6018



***Matt Ripatti,***  
***September 2, 1971***  
***March 30, 2025***

US Navy

Post 6060

*Creator, by whose  
mercy the faithful  
departed find rest,  
look kindly on your  
departed veterans who  
gave their lives in the  
service of their  
country.*

*Grant this through  
their passion, death,  
and holy resurrection  
so they may share in  
the joy of your  
heavenly kingdom and  
rejoice in you with  
your saints forever.*

*We honor our veterans  
in your name.*

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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celebrates 25, 50 or 75 years, order special silver-,  
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throughout this monumental year.

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- designate part of your regular poppy order as  
anniversary poppies

25th silver      50th gold      75th diamond



# VFW NC NOW HAS AN APP



Use the QR code to download. Turn on your notifications to receive important updates!

If you have suggestions email: [adj@vfwnc.com](mailto:adj@vfwnc.com)



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7529 S-4XL \$60.00

**BURGUNDY POLO** 100% polyester pique. Moisture wicking. UV protection. No additional embroidery available. Men's cut. Imported; decorated in the USA. Also available in ladies' cut.  
7515 S-4XL \$40.00



**SILVER AND GOLD COIN SET** 1.5" 0.999 silver coin (made in the USA) and 1.5" 24K gold-plated coin (imported). Comes in hard black clamshell vinyl-covered case. 1948 \$149.95



**YETI® TUMBLER** 20 oz. Snap-on drink thru lid. Dishwasher safe. Imported; decorated in the USA. 3151 \$49.95



**BLACK CAP** Five-panel, mesh back medium profile cotton blend with embroidered logo. Adjustable brass buckle. Imported. 7186 \$19.95



**ZIPPO® LIGHTER AND ETCHED LOGO CASE** Limited Edition, numbered case. Single torch insert, push-button ignition. Adjustable blue flame height. Shipped with no butane. Cannot request specific number. No returns accepted. Made in the USA. 1092 \$54.00

**LIFE MEMBER CARD** Include your name, Life Member number and date, Post number, city and state. Aluminum. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. 1125 \$12.00



**NECKLACE** Brass with gold plating. 1/2" medallion on 20" chain. 1645 \$15.95



**OUTDOOR FLAG** Navy blue. Single reverse reads correctly from one side. 3 x 5'. Made in the USA. 2500 \$65.00

Prices valid through 8/31/2025

To place your order, call 1.833.839.8387 or go online to [VFWSTORE.ORG](http://VFWSTORE.ORG)



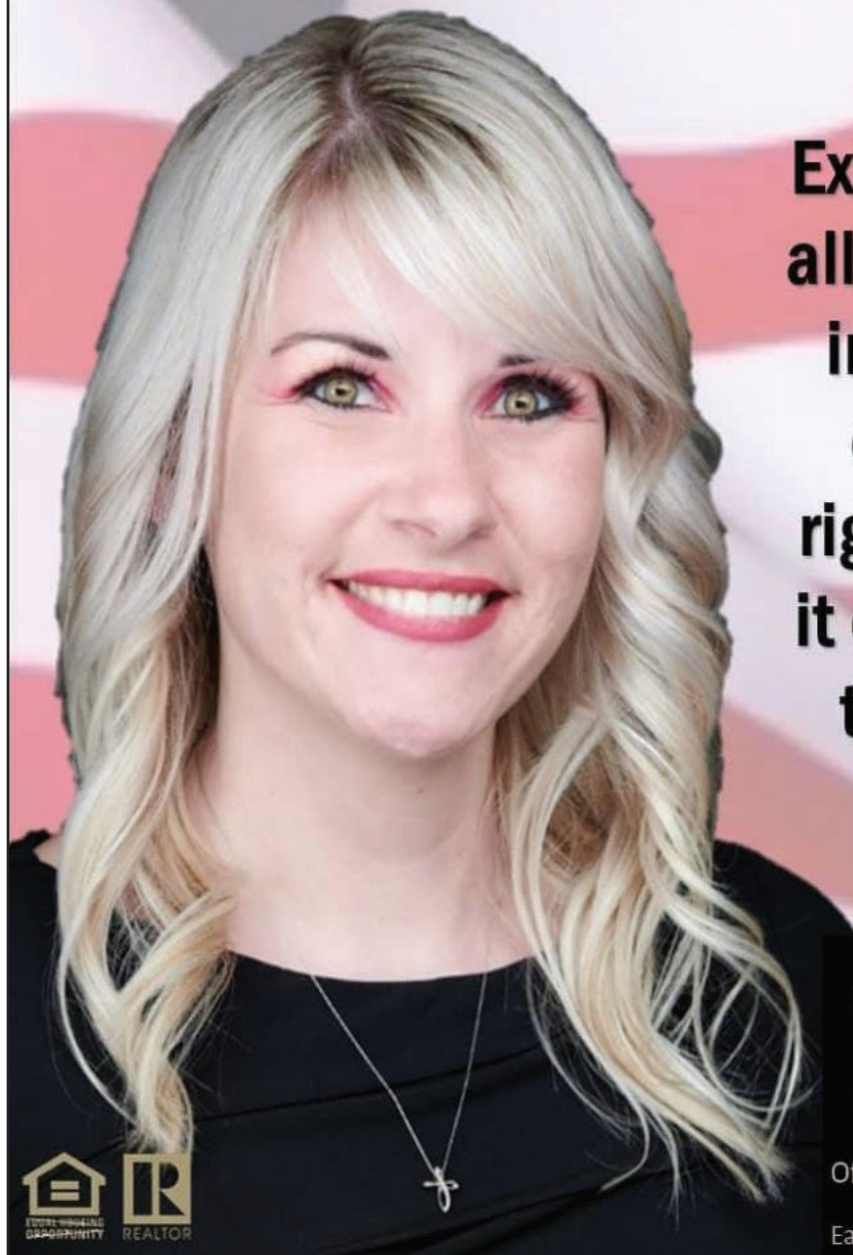
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I'm Richard A King, a licensed sales agent in Cumberland County North Carolina. When it comes to Medicare, it's important to consider all of your options. What works well for your neighbor may not be the best fit for you. I know the ins and outs of Medicare, and I'm ready to answer your questions and help you find a plan that fits your needs. **Take advantage of my knowledge and experience to:**

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- Get help comparing plans
- Make enrolling in a plan easier

I look forward to helping you explore your Medicare options so you can enroll in a plan with confidence.

**It's time to take advantage.**



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